

Dear Friends of Agriculture,

Agriculture is one of New York's leading industries and a vital part of our economy. We produce an abundance of diverse farm and food products that are second to none and we are very proud of our industry.

This report explains New York's agriculture story for 2004 and includes several years of history to depict trends and changes over time. 2004 was a challenging year due to inclement weather conditions for many of our hard-working producers, though we persevered and continued to rank nationally in many product categories.



This statistical record is an important tool for measuring the economic health of our industry and providing information for business and policy decisions. This publication also helps the general public understand the vast contribution agriculture makes to the economy of New York State and how it impacts our everyday lives.

My sincere appreciation is extended to all the farm families and businesses who so willingly gave their time and records so the estimates in this report could be prepared. I appreciate your cooperation and look forward to another successful year for New York agriculture.

Sincerely,

Nathan L. Rudgers

Commissioner


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